



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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November 4, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Tom Lammert, Monti Cristo Mine, S/037/118, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 8, 2003
Time of Inspection: about 8:15 to 8:35 a.m.
Conditions: Clear, 60's
Participants: Denice Swanke, Moab BLM; Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

The Division determined the notice of intention for this mine was not complete, but the operator has commenced mining. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a notice of noncompliance because the operator had not received approval for occupancy and other activities. I felt it was important to see the site and to take GPS readings.

Getting to the site:

From Moab, take the road that follows the south side of the Colorado River toward Kane Springs Canyon. The road is paved along the Colorado River, but it is a dirt road once it heads into this side canyon. I did not take mileage readings, but it is about six miles from the turnoff into Kane Springs Canyon to a mine access road that leads toward the mine at the base of the cliffs on the east.

Observations:

I took a GPS reading at a gate, and the road continues up to a pad where the operator has a motor home and a truck (Photo 1). Our red pickup is visible on the left side of this photo, and it was parked just outside the gate. A flexible pipe extended from the motor home to a small depression, and it appeared gray water was being allowed to drain directly from the motor home into this depression.

From this lower pad, there is a road leading to an upper pad and two portals. One of the portals, shown in Photo 2, does not appear to have been used recently. The other portal

(Photo 3) was blocked with plywood, and Ms. Swanke believes the operator is using this portal for equipment storage.

The lower left portion of Photo 4 shows an area where there was an oil spill. The operator was supposed to have dug up this material and placed it where it could be aerated, but this had not happened. This photo also shows where runoff appears to have gone over the edge of the pad creating a gully.

There were several pieces of equipment on the upper pad, and they are shown in Photo 5. This photo is a composite of four pictures.

I took GPS readings of the upper and lower pads, the road between the pads, the road leading from the lower pad to the gate, and of a point at the gate. The map based on these readings is attached to this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

On September 25, 2003, the Division determined the operator's notice of intention to commence small mining operations was incomplete. The additional information needed was clarification about the variance request and a report on cultural resources. The operator had requested a variance from topsoil stockpile and revegetation requirements, but the information in the notice was ambiguous. The site was previously disturbed, so it appears there was little vegetation before the current operations were begun. For this reason, the Division should be able to grant a variance from requirements to establish vegetation, but the operator should still rip and seed the pads when the operation is complete.

The Division has now received a cultural resources clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office.

As required by the BLM, the operator needs to pick up the soil on which oil was spilled and to aerate it. In addition, a berm should be built around the edge of the pads to keep water from eroding the pad outsoles.

The BLM has been working with the operator on the issue of dumping water from the motor home to the small depression on the ground surface. I'm sure the County has requirements for disposal of this water, but unless the BLM is not able to get this situation resolved, I will not contact the County.

PBB.jb

cc: Denice Swanke, Moab BLM
Tom Lammert, operator

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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

S/037/118, Monti Cristo Mine, Tom Lammert

Inspection Dated: October 8, 2003; Report Dated: November 4, 2003



Photo 1. Part of the lower pad. Note the drain pipe coming from the left side of the motor home and leading into a small depression.



Photo 3. The portal the operator appears to be using.



Photo 2. An open portal at a lower elevation than the one shown in Photo 3.



Photo 4. An oil spill is shown in the lower left of this photo, and the upper center shows the top of an erosional gully.

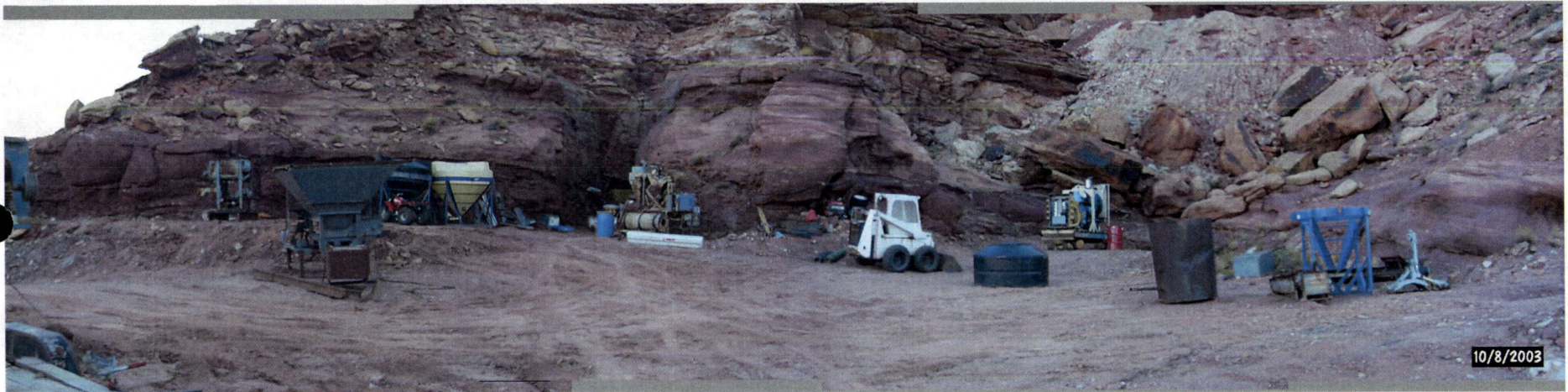
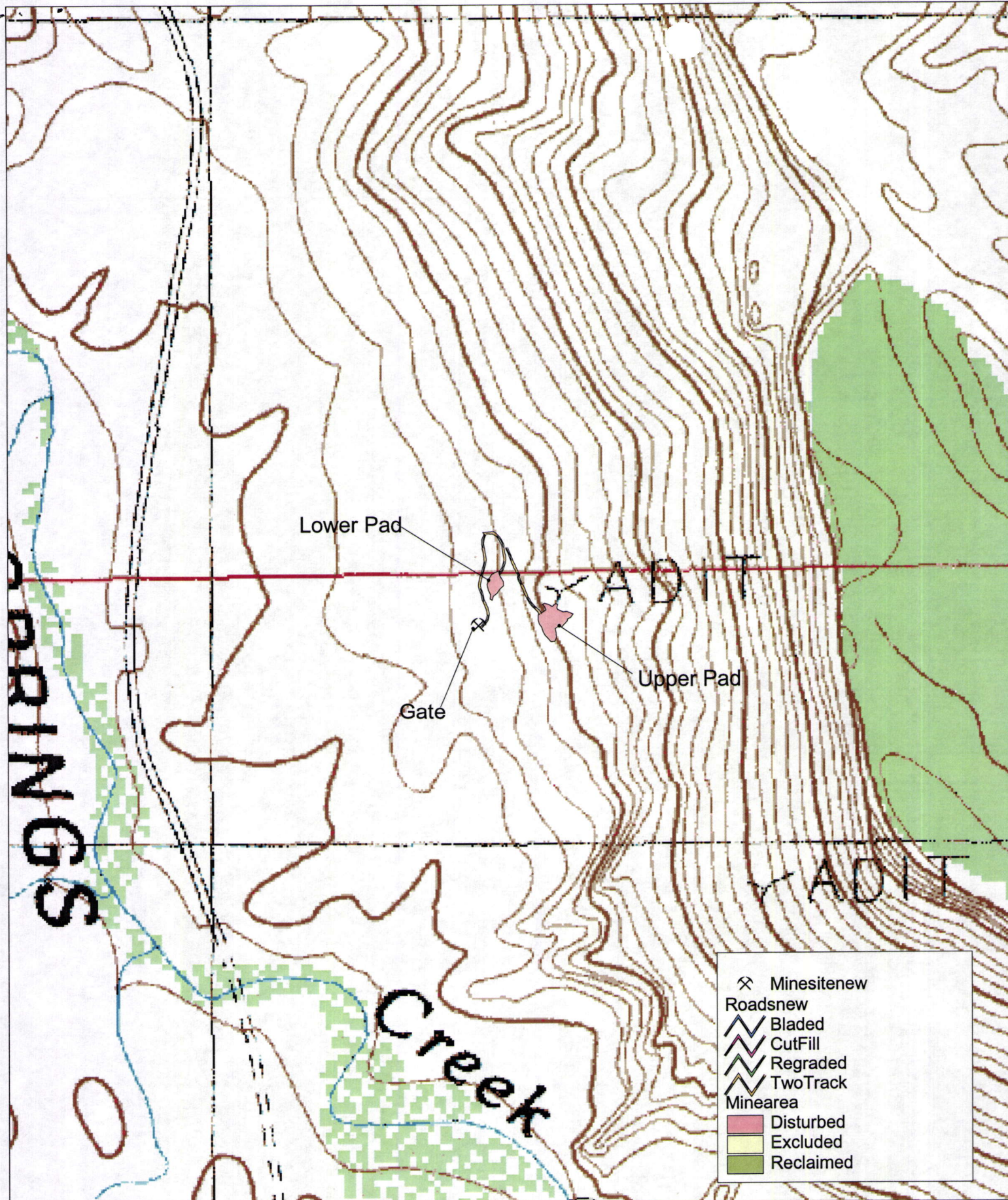
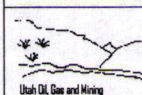




Photo 5. A panorama view of the upper pad and the equipment.



 <p>Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Oil, Gas & Mining Mineral Mines Program</p> <p>Quad Sheet: Trough Springs</p>	<p>200 0 200 400 Feet</p>  <p>Scale 1:6000 Contour Interval: 40 feet</p>		<p>Mine Number: S/037/118 Mine Name: Monti Cristo Township 12 S Range 5 E Sections 3 and 10 SLBM</p>	
			<p>Drafted by PBB</p>	<p>October 2003</p>